

**CHARTER COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2011**  
**705 W. University Avenue, Council Auditorium**

**Commission members in attendance:** Odon Bacque, Dale Bourgeois, Karen Carson, Bruce M Conque, George A. Lewis, Greg Manual, D. Keith Miller, Stephen J. Oats, Aaron Walker

**Absent:** None

**Charter staff members in attendance:** Pat Ottinger (City-Parish Attorney) and Veronica L. Williams (Charter Commission Clerk)

**Council Members/Staff in attendance:** Council Chair Kenneth Boudreaux, Council Member Jay Castille and Council Clerk Norma Dugas

**Administration staff in attendance:** Director of Finance Becky Lalumia and Director of Lafayette Utilities System Terry Huval

(5:30 p.m.) AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to order  
Chair George Lewis called the meeting to order.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance  
Commissioner Keith Miller was called upon to deliver the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Comments/Announcements from Commission Members  
There were no comments from the Commissioners.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Discussion of administrative section of separate Parish charter

Lewis stated that the Commission had completed the administrative procedures for the proposed City charter and the Commission would be reviewing the administrative section for the Parish charter.

4-01 B - Conque questioned whether the word “*will*”, used in the first and second sentences, could be changed to “*may*” and the consensus was to make the change in the first sentence; however, the second sentence would remain as is. Oats questioned whether the first sentence needed to be in the Parish charter as it could imply that the Parish could not contract with a private vendor or other municipalities. Ottinger stated that he would provide new language that would clarify the intent.

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4-02 – Under Organization, Conque noted that the word “*department*” was used in various places and advised that the intent was to avoid references to departments, inasmuch as the services would be consolidated. Oats suggested that in lieu of using the word “*department*”, the phrase “*proposed plan of organization*” could be used. To address this concern, Ottinger recommended the words “*assigned to each department*” located at the end of paragraph A be changed to “*associated therewith*”. Ottinger advised that he would provide the corrected language for both paragraphs A and B.

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7-03 – Under the Section “Amending or Repealing the Charter”, Oats reminded that he had assigned law students the task of researching the threshold used by other entities on referendums. The findings would be presented to the Commission at a later date.

On Paragraph B, Conque suggested that the proposed structure of the Charter Commission be determined at a later date, when the Commission has come to a conclusion on a more definite number of Council Members.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Discussion of possible base salaries for the Mayor and City Council...and Parish President and Parish Council

In Section 2-05A of both the City and Parish charters, Ottinger recommended that the phrase “*after the next regular Council election*” be replaced with “*upon commencement of the term of office of the next succeeding Council*”. Also in paragraph B of this section, the word “*super majority*” in both charters should be changed to “*two-thirds vote of the authorized membership*”. Lewis noted that Lalumia confirmed that the Parish Charter would include reference to the *CPI – All Urban Consumer for the South Urban area*, which would apply to pay increases for Council Members.

Salary - City Mayor: The current City-Parish president made \$108,309, which was not the highest paid elected official in the parish. Lalumia stated that the cost allocation on the President’s salary was 84% City/16% Parish. Oats stated that, given the functions would remain consolidated and the fact that the mayor dealt with the Lafayette Utilities System, it was his opinion that the mayor’s salary should be higher. Durel reminded that the position was responsible for the largest budget in the parish, as well as the highest number of employees. With that, he suggested that the salaries of other parishwide elected officials be researched and suggested the salary of the mayor be 3% higher than the highest paid official in the parish. Carson agreed that the position should be linked to the highest paid in the parish, excluding the District Attorney, which required a specialized degree. Lewis requested that the Clerk research the salaries of the parishwide elected officials.

Salary - City Council: Durel reminded that a major factor in considering the salary was the fact that the Council would have to deal with issues of LUS. Castille noted that, although a part-time position, these members gave up a part of their lives to serve; and, it would be tough to get good people to run on a salary lower than the current salary amount of \$25,500. It was suggested that the salary amount for the City Council be the same amount as a City-Parish Council Member’s salary six (6) months prior to the effective date of the Charter. Ottinger would provide further clarifying language.

A motion was offered by Oats, seconded by Conque **to identify a preliminary Charter amendment to provide for a salary amount for the City Council equal to the amount of a City-Parish Council Member’s annual salary six (6) months prior to the effective date of the Charter** and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Bacque, Bourgeois, Carson, Conque, Lewis, Manuel, Oats, Miller, Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

*The motion was unanimously approved.*

Salary- Parish Council: Castille recommended that the salary be no less than \$20,000, given it would not take effect until the year 2016. Assessor Conrad Comeaux suggested that it be 85% of the starting point of the City Council’s salary. Castille concurred. Bourgeois expressed concern that the salary amounts would grow

government. On another note, Conque thought that the Council Chair should receive more compensation than other Council Members, given the increased work load. Manuel suggested the Chair receive 25% more than the other Council Members. When considering Council pay, Boudreaux stated it was important to note that the pay would go to support the quality of the applicant. Given the additional work load, there was no incentive to take on the Chairman seat when there was no compensation associated with it. Ottinger stated that he would research ethics opinions related to Council Member and voting on their salary. He would provide the outcome.

A motion was offered by Manuel, seconded by Miller **to identify a preliminary Charter amendment to provide for a salary amount for the Parish Council, which would be 85% of the City Council's base pay** and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Bacque, Bourgeois, Carson, Conque, Lewis, Manuel, Miller, Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Oats

ABSTAIN: None

*The motion was approved.*

A motion was offered by Manuel, seconded by Conque **to identify a preliminary Charter amendment to provide for a salary amount for the City and Parish Council Chairman that would be 25% above a Council Member's salary** and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Bacque, Bourgeois, Carson, Conque, Lewis, Manuel, Oats, Miller, Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

*The motion was unanimously approved.*

Salary – Parish President: Lewis stated that the position would be full time. Oats supported a full time manager in lieu of a president. Conque countered stating that the parish needed a strong leader and visionary, given that hard financial decisions would have to be made. Durel reminded that the population of the unincorporated area would continue to decline. It was his opinion that the position was more about planning for the future; and, a parish president was not needed. Conque disagreed with the role of the president, adding the position would deal more with regional matters. Bourgeois added that it would take a strong president to hold things together. Durel stated that regionalism could ultimately be accomplished through the Council of Governments organization. Comeaux reminded that a manager had nothing to lose when proposing and/or fighting for a tax, whereby an elected official may not be so willing to fight as hard for tax. Oats expressed concern that the salary amount was too high.

A motion was offered by Manuel, seconded by Bacque **to identify a preliminary Charter amendment to provide for a salary amount for the Parish President that would be 85% of the Mayor's salary** and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Bacque, Carson, Conque, Lewis, Manuel, Miller

NAYS: Bourgeois, Oats, Walker

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

*The motion was approved.*

Ottinger indicated that he would provide the language to include in the Charters with reference to the votes made on compensation.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: General comments from the public on Consolidation

There were no comments from the public.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Next meeting date

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, January 19, 2011. There would be no meeting Monday, January 17, in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.